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INSIDE



Backlash

Backlash over the beheading of a U.S. contractor in Saudi Arabia was as clear as a sign in the town where he was born. "Stamp out Islam," read a cardboard sign that also depicted a hand-drawn boot over a crescent and star.

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GMA Wins

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo won another term in office, according to a final election count announced Sunday. But the opposition, which has warned of a possible "people power" revolt, said its claims of electoral fraud were ignored and vowed to keep fighting.

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Overdrive

The 2005 Ford Escape improved its performance in new crash tests by the insurance industry and earned the second-highest rating, according to results released Sunday.

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Authorities recover body of teen



EDITH ALEJANDRO

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen, left, and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente shake hands soon after the signing of the agreement providing for long-term funding assistance to the CNMI, while Gov. Juan N. Babauta and House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, right, applaud.

NMI, DOI ink long-term funding accord

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The Department of the Interior and the CNMI signed an agreement yesterday to provide long-term financial assistance to the Northern Marianas, starting off with \$12.4 million for fiscal year 2005 that would fund several Capital Improvement Projects.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente signed the agreement during a ceremony held at the Governor's Conference Room.

As part of the new agreement, the Northern Mariana Islands would be subjected to an accountability clause under the Section 702 Funding Agreement based on a competitive criteria to ensure full compliance. This means that the CNMI will be vying with other territories for the funding provided under this assistance.

The agreement, which was initialed in

Bulk of CIP funds goes to water projects

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

To ensure a 24-hour water supply on Saipan by end of next year, the government has decided to put the bulk of the \$12.4 million capital improvement project funds for fiscal year 2005 on water development projects.

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente said that once the funding allocation for Rota and Tinian is taken from the total amount, the rest of the

February this year, hopes to provide up to \$13 million per year for the next six years for capital improvement projects and would continue financial assistance indefinitely or until the U.S. Congress chooses to discontinue it.

Present to witness the initialing of the

money would be spent primarily on water projects.

Based on the plan, Tinian and Rota would get \$1.8 million each, leaving a balance of \$8.8 million. Of this, \$5.7 million will be used for water development projects.

These projects include well field development and isolation, leak detection and elimination, rainfall catchment development, well optimization, metering program, and water storage improvement.



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agreement were Gov. Juan N. Babauta, CNMI Representative to the United States Pedro A. Tenorio, Senate President Joaquin Adriano, and House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, among others.

Cohen said the agreement is a win-win

See NMI on Page 12

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

The search for a teenage boy who was reportedly missing while boogie boarding beyond the reef line across Sugar Dock on Saturday came to a tearful end yesterday afternoon after authorities recovered his body.

Department of Public Safety public information officer Thomas A. Blas Jr. said Boating Safety Section officers managed to recover the body at about 2:15pm. He said the body was found floating by the green buoy outside the reef line.

Medics were summoned to the dock and immediately transported the 17-year-old boy to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The victim, along with a 16-year-old boy, were boogie boarding on Saturday when they were swept beyond the reef line by strong currents. Responders from the BSS and its Dive Rescue Team rushed to the site shortly after noon after receiving reports that two teenage boys were in distress due to rough waves.

"The 16-year-old was rescued as he hung on to a buoy in the channel outside the reef line by two responding officers and another jet ski operator of the JY Concession of Saipan Grand Hotel," said Blas.

He said the 17-year-old boy was last seen by the other victim.

"Upon his return with the officers to the shore, he reported his companion missing," he said. "Immediately, a

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DOI investment confab moved to Los Angeles

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Department of the Interior has decided to hold its upcoming September investment conference for island territories in California rather than Washington D.C. to reach out to businesses that are closer to the islands.

"We are reaching out to the business communities especially in the West Coast, and Hawaii. We are moving to Los Angeles. There's a lot more business ties in the Pacific... We hope to get more businesses aware of the opportunities in the islands," said Cohen.

At the same time Cohen said that DOI will invite the Freely Associated States to the conference for the first time. These include the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

During the Sept. 2003 investment conference in D.C., only the insular areas of the CNMI, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands,

See DOI on Page 12

Local

bank of guam visa

4/28

'Bill banning same-sex marriage unconstitutional'

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office raised constitutional issues on the proposed same-sex marriage initiative, noting that the measure would impede several constitutional rights under Commonwealth law.

Acting attorney general Clyde Lemons said the issue of proposed House Legislative Initiative 14-3 embraces more than one article of the CNMI Constitution and does not merely amend Article II directly.

Lemons stressed that the measure also aims to amend rights

allowed under Article I by denying equal protection of the law to certain persons in the area of marriage, prevent the Legislature from enacting laws that would outlaw discrimination based on sex in the area of marriage and by creating a constitutional public policy in favor of sex-based classifications in the area of marriage.

Also, the AGO said the measure would violate the right to privacy in the personal decision to marry and the liberty interests of individuals by intruding into the private realm of decision whether to marry a person of one's choice.

"This opinion in no way lim-

its the rights of individuals to refuse to marry persons of the same sex for religious or any other reasons. This opinion does not seek to limit the personal freedom of individuals to disapprove of, or to encourage others to disapprove of same-sex marriage," Lemons said in his testimony submitted to the House of Representatives.

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations would hold a public hearing today at 1:30pm at the House chamber to hear statements and comments on HLI 14-3.

The initiative, introduced by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial,

aims to restrict the conduct of marriage to between people of opposite sexes only by amending Section 5 of Article II of the CNMI Constitution, adding a new subsection that would limit legislative authority in enacting laws relating to marriage.

Fitial earlier said that, since the CNMI is predominantly Catholic, there would hardly be any opposition to the proposal. Some individuals, however, have already expressed opposi-

tion to the measure.

The proposed section reads: "It is the public policy of the Commonwealth to protect the unique relationship of marriage and that only the union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in the CNMI and the Legislature may not enact any law inconsistent with the public policy on marriage."

The issue has become a political hot button in the U.S. mainland, where some states and cities

have started recognizing gay marriages even as its validity continue to be debated and challenged. San Francisco in California and Boston started sanctioning marriage unions between same-sex partners since February. Since then until March 9, 2004, more than 3,700 same-sex couples have reportedly gotten married in the Bay Area. The marriage ceremonies have been intended to force the State of California to act on legalizing gay marriage.

NMC told to train financial aid staff

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education has recommended further training for financial aid personnel at the Northern Marianas College to avoid problems in federal aid compliance.

This comes even as the college remains under reimbursement basis for Pell Grants, according to NMC board chair Kimberly-King-Hinds.

"We're still in that category. We don't know when we are going to get off from that," she said.

King-Hinds and acting NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero recently met with USDE officials in California to discuss the college's Pell Grant status, among other things.

During the meeting, federal officials identified "training" and "better communication" as things to do for NMC, King-Hinds said.

"A recommendation is for us to invest in more training for our financial aid personnel," she added.

Earlier this year, the college said the reimbursement status would be lifted when NMC submits to USDE three batches of applications that contain minimal errors. The board chair said this has not happened so far.

The college was placed on Pell reimbursement status—instead of advance status—due to the college's failure to submit audits on time in the last four years.

As of March, NMC said it has completed and submitted the audit reports for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002. The 2003 audit was up for submission last April.

In a report to a House of Representatives committee, Guerrero had said that although the audits were now up to date, "our Title IV [financial aid] case team decided not to return the college to 'advance status' due

to the level of exceptions noted in the files during this 'reimbursement status.'"

"The case team is requiring that the college demonstrate that it has addressed the issues identified by submitting three consecutive batches of files that contain an exception rate of 10 percent or less," he said.

NMC is now working with a consultant who reviews packets of student applications before sending them to San Francisco.

Guerrero said the NMC's Financial Aid Office, headed by director Ray Basa, is narrowing down the deficiencies so that all student applications would be free from errors.

Guerrero said all files for fall 2003 and spring 2004 should be submitted by May or June 2004. If students submitted all the correct and necessary information in their files, all reimbursements should be in by July 2004, he said.

In his March 16 letter to House Education Committee chairman Justo Quitugua, Guerrero reported that a task force has been formed to ensure that the Pell grant fiasco is not repeated.

Recently, USDE informed NMC about the disqualification of Rota and Tinian students from receiving Pell grants as they had been classified as belonging to different campuses, but the USDE reconsidered its decision following an appeal from the college. NMC said students on Tinian and Rota are now eligible to receive the grant.

Pell Grant provides funding to low-income students pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree nationwide. The grant is awarded either individually or through the college. Each qualifying NMC student receives a maximum of \$3,000 in Pell funds a year. The award increases every year to compensate for higher tuition costs as

oh yeah

cars unlimited

cnmi heroes

Chuuk mayoral election

This is to inform all eligible voters of Weno Municipality, Chuuk State that your election for mayorship will be held on June 25, 2004 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. For more information call your association officers for details.



Palau president to visit NMI

This is to notify all Palauans residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that Palau President Tommy E. Remengsau Jr. will be on the island and requests to have a dinner meeting with all Palauans on June 25, Friday, from 5pm to 11pm, at the Carolinian Utt.

For more information, contact the Palau Consulate at 235-6804 or cell phone 788-8320.

Are you a WWII Pacific veteran?

The Northern Marianas College film documentary crew is looking for WWII veterans with stories that should be told and remembered. If you are a veteran, or if you know one, please contact the NMC crew at 484-2876 and ask for Dominic.

WSR registration set

William S. Reyes Elementary School is announcing its Registration Information for school year 2004-2005. Registration procedures will be slightly different this school.

June 14-25 Incoming Students

- We gave your child the packet on April 30.
- You will fill them out and return the packet to your child's teacher.
- We will collect all registration forms.
- If on-going students do not register at this time, you will have to wait until June 14.
- Please register at this time so we will not have any delay.
- Inside the packet, we will have a checklist for all necessary documents.
- A check mark on the checklist indicates that you must turn-in the necessary document to complete your child's registration.
- If you are staying outside our zone, you are required to come in our office to sign the waiver form.

Checklist:

- Emergency Card
- Student Information (Yellow Card)
- FERPA form signed
- Students Insurance (You can purchase at any insurance company)
- Out of Zone Waiver application
- Health Certificate

For more information, call 664-3971/72.

Broadcast schedule for Into The Woods

The radio broadcast of Into The Woods Jr. by students under the direction of Friends of the Arts will be on KRN 88.1 and 89.1 FM. It will air on Saipan Radio Theatre until today, June 22 at 7:30pm. It will also air on the Novel Hour, Tuesday, June 29, and Saturday, July 3 on the following times: Tuesday 8pm, Saturday 11am.

Attention to parents of GES 6th Grade graduates

On June 28, 2004 all 6th grade cumulative records will be sent to Hopwood Junior High School to prepare for the new school year. If your child will not be attending Hopwood, please come to the main office at GES to fill out a transfer-out form. This includes the parents of children who will be attending ChaCha Junior High School, private schools on Saipan, and/or any off-island school.

DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All Community Public Water Systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

Group offers free health screening

The United Filipino Organization and the Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration on Saipan disclosed launching a health-screening program as part of efforts to curb the rising incidence of diabetes among Filipinos in the CNMI.

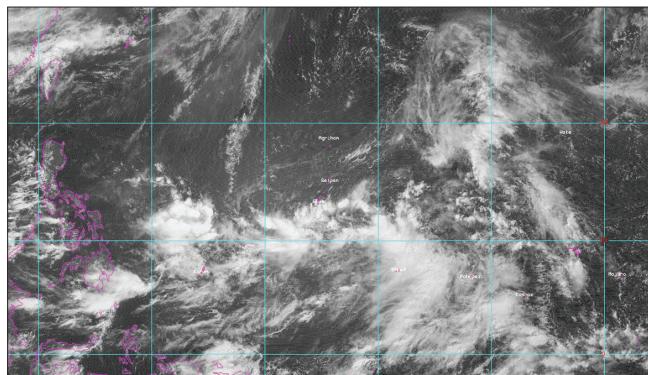
UFO president Nel Atalig said the health-screening project would involve free glucose count and blood pressure tests.

Volunteers from the Commonwealth Health Center would perform the tests, she said.

Atalig said the event would be regularly conducted from 9am to 12 noon every last Sunday of the month.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE FOR JUN 20, 2004							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
International				International			
Domestic				Domestic			
Local				Local			
DOMESTIC AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Flight	Time	Flight	Destination	Flight	Time	Flight	Destination
International							
Domestic							
Local							

WEATHER FORECAST



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 AM., JUNE 20, 2004

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Dianmu centered near 27N 130E is moving north-northeast at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 90 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms extend east of 130E from 21N to 27N. See jtwc warning wtpn31 pgtw for further details. A monsoon trough extends from 17N 140E through the Mariana Islands to 5N 155E east to 5N 173E. Convergent flow into the trough combined with favorable upper-level winds is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 2N and 17N from 140E to 175E. This large area includes the Mariana Islands and most islands in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Divergent flow aloft east of an upper-level trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and west of Wake Island between 17N and 25N from 157E to 167E.



SAIPAN AND TINIAN

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast at 10-15 mph. Highs around 86. Lows around 78.



GUAM AND ROTA

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast 10-15 kt. Highs around 86. Lows around 78.



PALAU

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: West at 10-15 kt.



POHNPEI

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: South at 10 kt.



YAP AND ULITHI

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: West at 15 kt.



KOSRAE

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Southeast at less than 10 kt.



CHUUK

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: Southwest at 15-20 kt.



MAJURO

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

Winds: East at 10 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
Auckland	Rain	58F (14C)	50F (10C)
Beijing	Cloudy	77F (25C)	56F (13C)
Hong Kong	Thunder	89F (32C)	80F (27C)
Honolulu	Sunny	88F (31C)	75F (24C)
London, England	Partly Cloudy	72F (22C)	54F (12C)
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78F (26C)	61F (16C)
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93F (34C)	77F (25C)
Melbourne	Cloudy	51F (11C)	38F (3C)
Miami	Thunder	90F (32C)	77F (25C)
New York City	Thunder	86F (30C)	68F (20C)
Osaka	Sunny	76F (24C)	61F (16C)
Paris	Rain	70F (21C)	59F (15C)
Pusan	Cloudy	78F (26C)	61F (16C)
Rome	Partly Cloudy	78F (26C)	58F (14C)
Salem, Oregon	Sunny	88F (31C)	52F (11C)
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67F (19C)	56F (13C)
Seoul	Rain	73F (23C)	55F (13C)
Tokyo, Japan	Partly Cloudy	76F (24C)	67F (19C)
Washington, DC	Thunder	92F (33C)	74F (23C)

New traffic pattern complied with only during day

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Motorists have been complying with the new traffic pattern along Coral Tree Avenue on Garapan during the day; however, two-way traffic continues at night due to the lack of enforcement.

The one-way pattern was due to the ongoing multi-million Pedestrian Mall project in the area.

According to project coordinator Bill Wanket of the Department of Public Works, the enforcement of the new pattern during the day is positive so far.

"It's going fine because of the flagmen who are directing traffic, and for the most part, people are concurring with direction," he said.

Wanket, however, said that two-way traffic resumes at night because "no one is out there to enforce it."

"I guess it's okay for now, but as the project progresses and moves more along the center of Coral Tree Avenue, what's going to happen is we are going to put up more barriers so that traffic will be limited to one-way only," he said. "As we go further into the

project, heavy equipment will be stationed there, so traffic will be forced to go one-way."

Wanket said the night enforcement issue would be brought up during a board meeting tomorrow.

The multi-million Pedestrian Mall project in Garapan is on track for completion with workers now on Phase 3 of the project.

Maeda Pacific Corp. general manager Tom Nielson confirmed that the mall project, estimated to cost about \$3.31 million, is ahead of schedule. Construction began on Jan. 13,

2004 and is expected to be completed by Oct. 7, 2004.

Earlier, Wanket disclosed that four-way and three-way stops would be implemented on the two main intersections in the area—by Winchell's Doughnut Shop and the Garapan Fire Station—and later traffic lights, depending on availability of funds.

Wanket said construction for another project dubbed the Coral Tree Avenue Improvement Project would soon begin along the avenue. The construction includes adding about 80 to 100 trees along the strip. New sidewalks will be constructed, power lines will be placed underground, and light posts similar to the posts along the Beach Road pathway will be installed.

Both projects are part of the Garapan Revitalization Project, which aims to transform the downtown Garapan area into an attractive and safe focal point for tourist and resident activities, including strolling, outdoor dining, outdoor musical entertainment, and festivities.

The Strategic Economic Development Council first floated the idea of renovating the Garapan area in the late '90s as part of its tourist-related beautification program.

The mall project is the third phase of the approximately \$25-million Garapan Revitalization Project. The Promenade project, which covers the 3rd Street or Hotel Street, includes the setting up of a lighting system, drinking fountains, covered shelters, and public toilets.

The government expects the project to generate at least \$200 million in revenue within the four-year period of the revitalization.

Intoxicated man stabbed in the back

A 28-year-old man was seriously injured after being stabbed early yesterday morning, according to the Department of Public Safety.

DPS public information officer Thomas A. Blas Jr. said the victim, Mino Phillip, was found with stab wounds shortly after 2am on the corner of Dollar Days Wholesale in Garapan.

Authorities have yet to identify any suspects involved in the incident.

Preliminary investigation by Officer Kui Rogopes showed that Phillip sustained a large cut

on the left side of his back and shoulder. Medics were summoned to the scene and immediately brought the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was treated and admitted for further observation.

"As the victim was interviewed, he could not recall or remember how he got his wounds and as to where he was when the incident occurred. It was also noted that the victim was intoxicated at the time," said Blas.

Blas explained that authorities believe that the victim may have been at the Libera-

tion Festival carnival grounds across the Kristo Rai Church. Blas said the incident is the NMI Crime Stoppers Crime of the Week.

Anyone with information on the incident is urged to contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau office at 664-9045 or the NMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

The NMI Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used and all calls remain anonymous. (Shan Seman)

Go ahead with CUC probe—Torres

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

A member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board welcomes any legislative investigation on CUC in connection with the current power woes as well as the impending privatization of its main power plants.

"I have no problem with that. It's always good to find out the truth and get what information they really want from CUC," said board member Joseph Torres.

He agreed that the Legislature has the authority to subpoena documents from concerned government agencies.

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial had recently formed an investigative panel to force certain agencies, including CUC, to submit needed documents. Fitial has appointed Rep. Claudio Norita to chair the committee. The committee has not scheduled any meeting yet.

The panel is specifically tasked to go after the Marianas Public Lands Authority, Marianas Public Lands Trust, the de-

partments of Public Safety and Public Health, and CUC.

House Vice Speaker and Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication Committee chair Timothy Villagomez earlier complained about CUC's failure to submit requested documents on the power situation on Saipan.

"It's a grave concern, yet the panel never received the documents it requested from CUC," said Villagomez.

He also expressed alarm over CUC's ongoing efforts for the privatization of power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base, which he said lacks a comprehensive consultation with the public.

"CUC needs to know that it can't privatize something that it does not own. CUC is a public corporation," he said.

Villagomez, a former CUC executive director, also frowned on the idea of CUC bringing in a power barge pending the full privatization of the power plants.

Villagomez accused CUC of not giving the real picture about the power situation. He said that, while

CUC earlier denied that there is a power crisis and a meltdown of the power system, its actions seem to confirm such a situation.

PUTC earlier asked CUC to submit documents on the power situation by June 4. Villagomez said that, instead of complying, CUC sent a letter asking for a deadline extension but without specifying an extension date.

PUTC earlier denied that there is a power crisis and a meltdown of the power system, its actions seem to confirm such a situation.

The All Islands Coastal Zone Conference 2004 seeks to have local and federal agencies arrive at strategic priorities for coastal management for the next five to 10 years.

Pregnancy test 'insulting,' says Tonga exec

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A misunderstanding over a visa has led to one of Tonga's most senior officials accusing New Zealand of refusing to let her into the country unless she take a pregnancy test.

Meleseni Lomu, Tonga's acting secretary for finance, was

to have accompanied Tonga's finance minister last week for a 4 day meeting of Pacific Forum economic ministers in Rotorua.

But she says she pulled out of the trip after being told by New Zealand officials that she would have to take a pregnancy test or undergo an interview to get a visa.

Conference on coastal protection begins

Scores of environmental officials and representatives from Pacific islands and federal agencies yesterday convened at the Pacific Islands Club to develop a regional strategy to address the degradation of coral reef ecosystems, fisheries and marine water quality.

Participating federal agencies include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Marina A. Picolish, PhD., of the Hawaii-based Mapping Change, LLC, the consulting firm that designed the meeting's agenda, said the conference aims to develop a regional strategy that would strengthen the voice of Pacific and Caribbean islands at the federal government, especially in procuring financial support to address environmental concerns.

The All Islands Coastal Zone Conference 2004 seeks to have local and federal agencies arrive at strategic priorities for coastal management for the next five to 10 years.

The agencies earlier underscored the importance of an effective public awareness campaign, setting the development of a community education strategy as one of their priorities. They also highlighted the importance of an information strategy for political leaders in efforts to get political support.

Coastal Resources Management Office director Joaquin D. Salas and deputy director Steve Tilley led the CNMI's environ-

mental officials and representatives in the conference.

The conference would continue today, when the EPA and NOAA are set to hold a joint session on exploring relationships among theirs and the islands' programs.

NOAA's Office of Coastal Resources Management program specialist Jonathan Kelsey and EPA's Pacific Islands Office manager John McCarroll would be joining the panel discussion. (John Ravelo)

Petition asks to suspend Pagan mining

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Northern Island residents have began a petition that calls on the Senate to immediately pass a bill suspending mining activities on Mt. Pagan.

The group, represented by Cinta Kaipat, asked the upper chamber to pass House Bill 14-204, titled Pozzolan Extraction Act of 2004, which was recently

introduced and passed in the House of Representatives.

"For many reasons, HB 14-204 is our bill. It protects our Pagan, our island, our home. But it is also a bill for all of the CNMI," said the group.

The bill, authored by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, aims to suspend any new pozzolan mining activity on Mt. Pagan for lack of a comprehensive study. It said that a comprehensive

assessment of pozzolan mineral extraction will ensure that the Commonwealth will receive a fair share of the revenue from the activity and that the potential risks to the environment posed by the mining will be reduced, if not eliminated.

Kaipat's group said that surface mining more than 20 percent Pagan's land mass, "with its potential environmental and social impact, is not to be rushed into."

The group cited a report identifying more than 200 million tons of high-grade pozzolan on Pagan, believed to be worth \$45 to \$70 per ton at today's prices.

"No one knows the true market value," said the group, but noted that "this is not a matter of a few thousand dollars. This is potentially a matter of billions of dollars."

The petition has reportedly been signed by some 40 people.

It said that the bill does not block mining pozzolan; it merely provides for a short period of time to verify the quality and quantity of pozzolan and investigate its marketability.

The bill, which also calls for the creation of a task force, wants the task force to determine the qualification requirement of persons and companies applying for permits to extract pozzolan, set permitting procedures, set

a fee and royalty schedule, and ascertain potential risks to the environment for mitigation.

"The CNMI risks nothing by allowing a short period of time to protect our resource, its value, and our environment...We have nothing to lose but 90 days by educating ourselves about this tremendously valuable resource," said the group. "We will never have another opportunity like this one. We will never have another Pagan."

Public libraries to receive over a thousand CDs



DINNER WITH DAD

Gov. Juan N. Babauta enjoys a sumptuous dinner with his dad, Santiago Babauta, and stepmother Nobuko, to celebrate Father's Day Sunday night.

LIBERTY DONES

OSHA workshop for small biz owners

Is your small business keeping up with the necessary requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act? Perhaps you're not familiar with OSHA and why it's important to your small business. Now is your chance to learn so don't get left out!

If you want cutting edge insight you'll want to attend this Safety and Health workshop for Small Business Owners workshop that is being offered during the 7th Annual June Small Business Development Month in the CNMI. The workshop is one in a four part business series sponsored by the NMC Small Business Development Center and Commonwealth Development Authority.

This workshop is invaluable for small business owners because OSHA requirements

are often times not address sufficiently the daily operations and long term planning of a company. The workshop includes discussion of the OSHA Act, general duty clause, inspections and citations and the appeals process.

This will be followed by fire safety that includes means of egress, emergency action and fire prevention plans, and fire protection. The third area of the workshop will cover electrical safety. It includes an overview, danger to employees, sources of hazards and safety related work practices. The last two areas of discussion will be walking and working surfaces and tools and machine guarding. By at-

tending this workshop you'll gain a better understanding of the importance of safety and health in the workplace.

Alfred Johnson, who is the Director of Administrative Services at Northern Marianas College, will present the workshop. He holds numerous OSHA certifications and has taught over fifty related OSHA during the past ten years.

Johnson's workshop will be held on Saipan from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23, at the NMC SBDC Conference Room (Building T). Registration begins at 5:30pm. Space is limited so call Robert Suzuki at 235-1551 to reserve your seat.



Johnson

Distance learning courses for Pacific health workers

Three new Internet-based modules will allow Pacific health professionals to learn about chronic and infectious diseases so that they can provide health education for local residents.

Developed by Pacific Resources for Education and Learning for the World Health Organization, these interactive learning modules address the prevention and treatment of

diseases that are of particular concern to Pacific Islanders. The modules are part of the WHO's Pacific Open Learning Health Net project, and are available at www.prel.org/healthonlin.

The modules focus on diabetes, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and mosquito-borne diseases. Along with clear, non-technical information about preventing and treating these

diseases, the modules also provide advice on designing presentations and adapting the content for local audiences.

You can find out more about the WHO's Pacific Open Learning Health Net project at www.polhn.com.

For further information, contact Joan Perkins by phone at (808) 441-1420 or by email at perkinsj@prel.org.

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier, June 21)—

Two prisoners are dead and four are in the hospital in Popondetta following a typhoid outbreak in Biru jail early this month.

Biru prison boss Senior Insp. Joycelyn Hauvari said two detainees died last week after they were diagnosed with typhoid.

Insp. Hauvari said after they were admitted earlier this month, their conditions deteriorated because they also had dysentery.

She identified the two as Benjamin Andosa, 44, of Fasembata village and Gleston Janpa, 22, of Papaki village, both of Oro Province.

Insp. Hauvari said the two were among eight detainees who had been admitted to the

Popondetta General Hospital after health inspectors checked the prisoners. A total of 40 prisoners were affected, but only eight were admitted and four were diagnosed with typhoid. Two of them died.

She said the health inspectors were not able to identify the cause of the outbreak but said the possible cause could be the open kitchen and mess area, which detainees used to cook and eat their food.

"From the inspection, the health officials have not found a cause, but the report they compiled has identified the open mess and kitchen as a possible cause of the outbreak," Insp. Hauvari said.

The personal hygiene of prisoners might be another cause.

She said: "Detainees have to

Palau president stumps on Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (PDN/PIR)—On Nov. 2, the same day that Americans cast their ballots for their president of the United States, thousands of Palauans will cast their votes for the president of the Emerald Isles.

Presidential elections are held every four years in the Republic of Palau, and on Saturday night, more than 100 Palauans living on Guam gathered for the first of an expected series of campaign meetings.

At the Barrigada Community Center, President Tommy Remengesau formally announced to Guam's Palauan community

his candidacy for a second term as president of Palau. Thus far, he is the only presidential candidate to meet with Palauans who have made Guam their home.

On Guam, there are about 1,200 Palauan voters, said Vic April, Palau consul general on Guam.

"We had about 900 people vote during the last presidential election," April said of Palau's 2000 presidential election. "We've had a lot more people register to vote this year so we're expecting a bigger turnout."

Guam's Palau Community Association hosted the cam-

paing meeting where Remengesau explained his campaign slogan: "Sustain the best and improve the rest."

Remengesau talked about his intent to continue his attempts to balance the preservation of the environment while fostering the island's economic development.

"We Palauans have been blessed by God with an island that boasts a beautiful environment that we can call home. That same environment attracts thousands of tourists each year, allowing us the opportunity to make money," he said.

HR group to discuss changes in overtime rules



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DONATION

Ed Salas, Niizeki Saipan International Ltd. general manager, hands over a check for \$1,750 to Tom Blas, Crime Stoppers coordinator and Public Safety information officer during ceremonies held at Pacific Gardenia Hotel this month. Salas headed the committee that organized the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' April 3, 2004 golf event. The donation is part of 50 percent of total proceeds from the event. HANMI also issued checks for the same amount to the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteer Association, Karidat and the American Red Cross. Also pictured are, from left, HANMI chair Ronald Sablan, HANMI secretary Michael von Siebenthal, Securewest Saipan operations manager Zahid Islam, HANMI treasurer Mark Swinton HANMI vice chair B.K. Park and Crime Stoppers chair Jim Arenovski.

PACIFIC Briefs

French Polynesia's new president seeks forum help

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI, June 20)—The newly installed President of French Polynesia, Oscar Temaru, says his government wants the Pacific Islands Forum to take the lead in helping the territory decolonize.

He says since 1978 they have been trying to enlist the help of agencies around the world, including the Forum, to get back on the United Nations list of non-autonomous nations.

Temaru says the Forum helped New Caledonia onto this list in 1988.

He hopes to be granted Observer status at the Forum meeting in Apia in August.

Nauru turns away protest fleet

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI, June 20)—Protestors who tried to visit detainees on Nauru are disappointed they are heading home from the island earlier than expected.

Two yachts have begun their journey back to Australia after failing to get permission to land at Nauru.

Nauru's Melbourne based spokesperson, Helen Bogdan, says presents taken to Nauru by protestors can still be given to the detainees:

"They have still got the gifts they were going to give to the children in the camp and I suggested that they give them to the Nauru government in Australia."

Guam residents were shocked to hear the occurrence of a similar incident in the relatively peaceful island.

The injured boy was stabbed in the back with a steak knife by another 10-year-old child.

The two boys reportedly had a fight while playing. One of them grabbed a steak knife and stabbed his play mate in his upper back, Perez said. Juvenile Section took the boy into custody on Saturday. It was not known at press time if the boy was released back into the custody of his parents.

Their names have been sent to the UN in New York for final approval and deployment assignments.

10-year-old boy stabbed by Guam playmate

HAGATNA, Guam (MV/PIR)—A 10-year-old boy who was stabbed Saturday by his play mate was reported to be in stable condition at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

GMH Nursing Supervisor Cely Mangrobang said a tube has been placed in the boy's chest to drain fluids found.

Stories about violence among children are commonplace in many parts of the United States.

The Society for Human Resource Management has invited lawyer Marcia Schultz, a partner at Carlsmith Ball LLP and former CNMI SHRM chapter president, to speak at the group's special half-day program on the upcoming changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The U.S. Department of Labor has released its final changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act's "white-collar" exemption regulations governing the eligibility for overtime and raise the salary threshold for overtime exempt status, as well as numerous other changes. This program will help people understand these changes and how they will affect businesses on-island.

Employers have until August 23, 2004, to comply with the new federal regulations. These changes affect both public and private sector employers in the CNMI.

"Join us to learn about the changes to this important federal employment law and how they affect your organization," the group said in a statement.

The meeting will be held at the Sandcastle, Hyatt Regency Saipan on Wednesday, June 23, from 8am to 1pm. The cost,

including lunch, is \$35 for SHRM members and \$45 for non-SHRM members. Seating is limited; members and others interested in attending this meeting should therefore contact Kim or Shane at 234-1234 Ext. 5403/5151 or fax number 233-0182 for reservations.

"All SHRM members are urged to join their peers for this current and informative presentation. Non-members in the business community, whether owners, managers for human resource professionals, are invited to learn more about the Society and to improve their human resource knowledge through the presentation and discussion," the statement says.

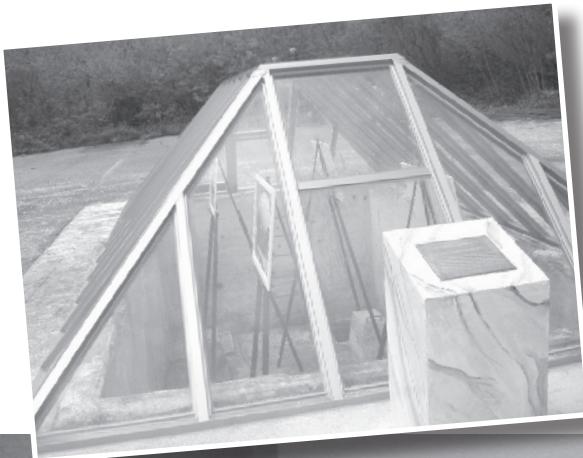
The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management describes itself as the Commonwealth's foremost professional forum for discussion and training in human resource matters. Recognized as a Superior Merit Chapter, the CNMI branch is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resources field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization.

MPLT

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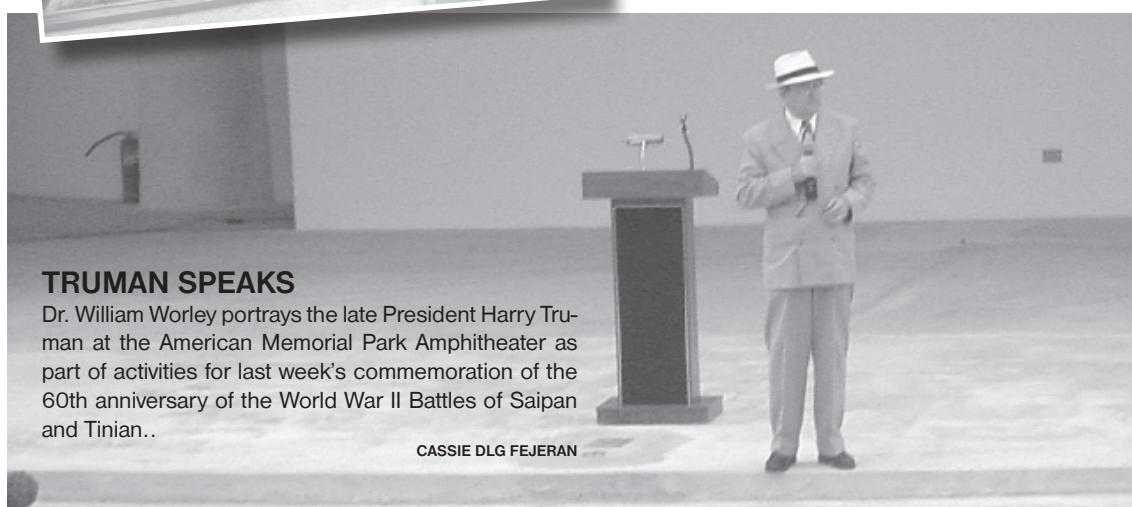
NMC JVA

Island Snapshots



LOCAL BEAUTIES
Candidates to the 2004 Liberation Royal Court pose with Queen's Committee chair Rose Ada-Hocog prior to performing several numbers at the Liberation Fest last Thursday.
CASSIE DLG FEJERAN

BOMB PIT
Shatter-proof glass covers bomb pit No. 2, which was unveiled recently on Tinian. It was built during World War II to launch "Fat Man," the atomic bomb used to hit Nagasaki, Japan on Aug. 9, 1945.
LIBERTY DONES



TRUMAN SPEAKS

Dr. William Worley portrays the late President Harry Truman at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater as part of activities for last week's commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian..

CASSIE DLG FEJERAN



GOODBYE

Veteran David McCarthy, left, has a brief chat with NMC film student Dominic Helgan prior to his departure last Friday at the Saipan International Airport.

SHAN SEMAN



BOOKS DONATION

Enola Gay pilot Ret. Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets autographs his book as Gov. Juan N. Babauta looks on Friday morning at the Shimbashi Restaurant of the Dia-ichi Hotel Saipan Beach.

SHAN SEMAN



HI, THERE!

CASSANDRA HAMMAN

Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, and Special Assistant for Administration Thomas A. Tebuteb join the parade commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian last Tuesday afternoon along Beach Road Garapan.



RESERVISTS

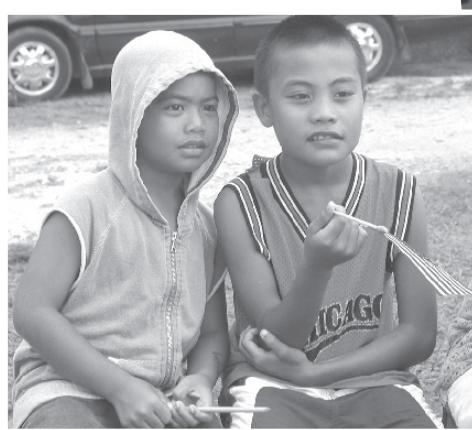
Army Reservists, including Rep. Ray Yumul, center, make their way to the Flag Circle at the American Memorial Park for the commemoration ceremony last Tuesday.

CASSANDRA HAMMAN

REUNION

Carmen Gaskins, second right, and relatives, including former Northern Marianas College president Agnes McPhetres, third right, pose with long-lost family friends, the Moormans, who visited Saipan during the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. The Moormans include mother Priscilla, 80, center, and daughters Jane, second left, and Cicely, right.

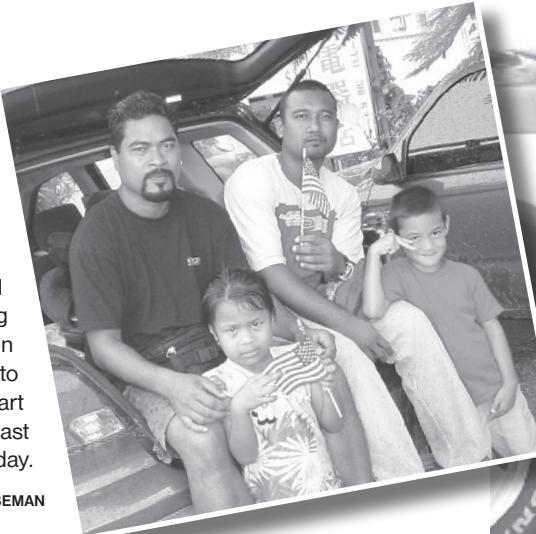
LIBERTY DONES



LOOK AT THAT!

Two boys feast their eyes on the passing veterans during the parade.

CASSANDRA HAMMAN

**KIBITZERS**

Rodney Norita, sitting left, and his daughter and Wayne Pua, sitting right, and his son pose for a photo prior to the start of the parade last Tuesday.

SHAN SEMAN

**WAITING**

Spectators put on a smile and wait patiently for the start of the parade.

CASSANDRA HAMMAN

**LOCAL HEROES**

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio sits with the local Marine scouts prior to the start of the commemoration ceremony at the American Memorial Park.

SHAN SEMAN

**OUT OF THE RAIN**

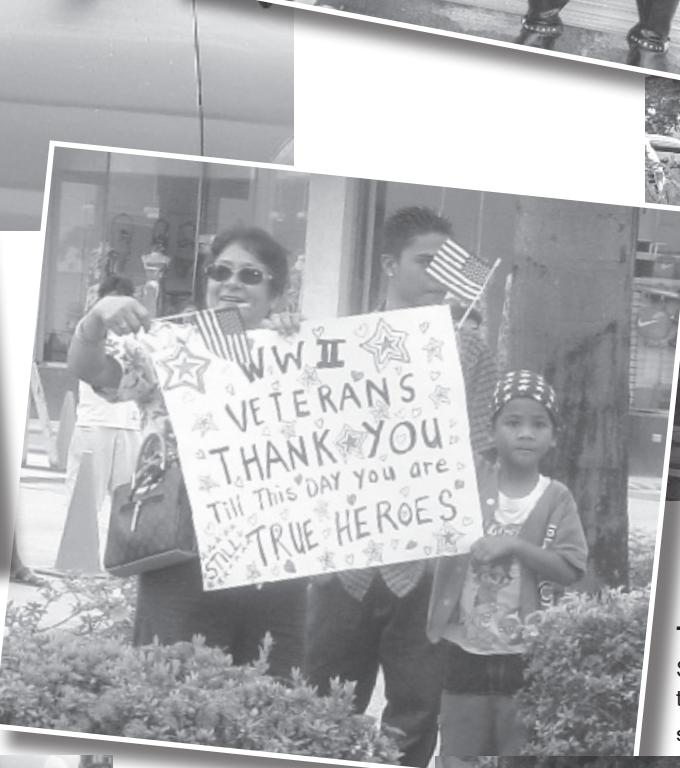
Waving small American flags, these boys ride out the slight drizzle under the protection of an umbrella during last Tuesday's parade commemorating the 60th anniversary of the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

CASSANDRA HAMMAN

CRUISING

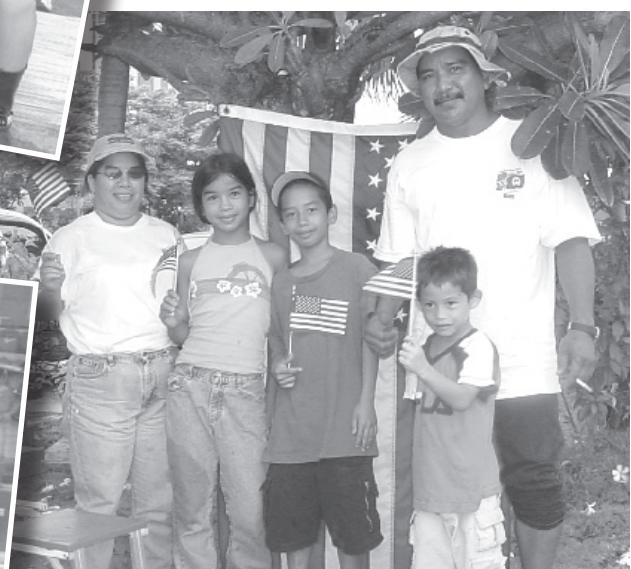
Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela waves a flag during the parade last Tuesday along Beach Road Garapan.

SHAN SEMAN

**SHELTER FROM THE RAIN**

A mother and her daughter sit along the sidewalk waiting for the start of the parade.

EDITH ALEJANDRO

**PATRIOTS ALL**

The Reyes family strikes a pose in front of the U.S. flag during the parade.

SHAN SEMAN

THANK YOU

Spectators proudly wave their flags while holding up a sign thanking the veterans for their exploits 60 years ago.

SHAN SEMAN

YOUTH CONGRESS

The CNMI Youth Congress was well represented during the parade as they showed their support and appreciation to the veterans.

EDITH ALEJANDRO

SAY CHEESE!

Spectators braved the wet weather in support of the veterans.

SHAN SEMAN



Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Mainlanders urge Bush to help NMI's 'stateless kids'

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

A 14-year-old girl has urged President Bush to use his powers to help CNMI individuals who were rendered stateless as a result of a presidential decree that left a gap for people born in the Commonwealth between Jan. 1, 1974 and Nov. 3, 1986.

Laura Alexander of Indiana, 14, told Bush in a letter that more than 300 CNMI individuals are in need of his support to obtain U.S. citizenship so they could further their education or join the U.S. military.

BULK

From Page 1

The CNMI earlier proposed \$7.9 million for these projects but the federal government only approved \$5.7 million.

The CNMI Water Task Force headed by Benavente aims to meet its goal of 24/7 water supply by end of 2005.

Meantime, Benavente warned that water production would decrease further during the well optimization program due to the anticipated decommissioning of 22 wells.

Recent estimates indicate that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. produces 8.5 million gallons of water a day (MGD). During the optimization program, total water loss is expected

"The injustice of this procedural glitch affects these people in their daily lives. Because of their lack of U.S. citizenship they cannot travel, they cannot vote, they cannot seek higher education, they are not eligible for federal higher education scholarships and grants, they are not eligible to join the U.S. armed forces (according to recent studies about 25 percent of these individuals wish to do), they are not eligible for social benefits, they are not eligible to compete in the local workforce...in other words, they are not eligible for a future," the student told the U.S. president.

to reach \$1.3 MGD or a net production of 7.2 MGD.

At present, the task force said that the actual demand on Saipan is at 9.2 MGD: 6.2 MGD for the estimated consumption of 100 gallons per person (for a population of 62,392) and 3 MGD for commercial users and system loss.

The task force said that water conservation efforts through rate structuring, metering, and leak detection will contribute toward the availability of water, "but it only enhances capability and accountability, and does not reduce actual demand of 9.2 MGD."

The 24-hour pressurization program, meantime, aims to produce an additional 2 MGD through various programs within the next 21 months.

for us to follow up," said Cohen.

For instance, he said one of the business potentials identified in the CNMI was mining opportunities at Mt. Pagan. Further discussions would be made on the issue this year, but he said this is something to be decided by the local community.

As far as DOI is concerned, he said it would not support or oppose any particular project. "There are issues involved. Just because we identified an opportunity doesn't mean that there won't be local issues to be resolved. We don't support or

She also noted that in a time of war, when the newspapers are riddled with stories of deaths and bombs, "maybe what the people need is a story of how the U.S. gave 350 people the right to share in the land of golden opportunity, about how the United States served justice and liberty, the two principles which our nation was founded upon."

Alexander's letter was one of the many letters that Gov. Juan N. Babauta has received in support of the CNMI's stateless children, urging that expeditious help be rendered to grant citizenship to these individuals.

The letters, which flooded the

This program constitutes 27.3 percent of the total project costs. Most of these costs will go to transmission lines and power hookups to ensure project completion.

Of the other recommendations, the task force said three are considered most critical: water conservation through leak detection and repair, metering and rate structuring, and elimination of unregistered water users.

The federal government increased the CNMI's annual CIP funding level from \$11 million to \$12.4 million.

The Babauta administration said that the funding increase is a recognition of the continued need to improve services in the CNMI and is also recognition by Congress of the "efficiency and professionalism" of the CNMI Water Task Force.

oppose any particular project. Our whole objective is to get the right people together so that the islands and the business community can decide what opportunities they are going to pursue. It's up to the people of the islands," Cohen said.

This came even as some local groups, including the House of Representatives, moved to suspend mining activities on Pagan amid the growing interest of investors on the project. The suspension would take place pending the conduct of a feasibility study.

who were also boogie boarding at the site, were swept out to sea by the strong current, requiring assistance from BSS.

Blas said the victims, 19-year-old Kriel Layco and Herman Guerrero, were rescued by BSS personnel and a civilian volunteer of the Saipan Water Craft concession of the World Resort.

Executive Branch's website www.executive.gov.mp, came from different parts of the U.S. mainland posted by home-schooled students who participated in the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association.

Alexander said the CNMI stateless issue struck her to the heart. "When I read of the injustice that the United States policy had brought upon these 350 people, I knew something had to be done," said Alexander.

She disclosed that along with a few fellow debaters, the group had started a grassroots campaign across the nation to try and gain support to help the CNMI stateless individuals in getting the U.S. citizenship they deserve.

"We have been writing our representatives, senators, and our local newspapers, in the hopes that someone will

take an interest and help not only to spread the word, but make a difference. From reading the Saipan Tribune, I have heard over and over again that an act of Congress is the only way to get these stateless individuals citizenship, but I have become increasingly frustrated at times with the unwillingness of Congress to address this issue during an election year," she added.

Alexander said that letters were also sent to Sen. Richard Lugar, Sen. Evan Bayh, Rep. Dan Burton, CNMI Resident Representative Pete Tenorio, president of the Organization of Stateless Americans Randy Mendoza, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Indianapolis Star*, the *Saipan Tribune*, *The New York Times*, and Anne Ryder, anchorwoman of NBC News Indianapolis.

tion of performing territories.

The financial and administrative requirements include timely and comprehensive responses regarding audits, prompt and effective efforts to resolve or correct internal control deficiencies, effective contract administration, and exercising prudent financial management.

The project criteria on the other hand provides that the project helps achieve economic goals and objectives set by the OIA's strategic plan, describes anticipated measurable outcomes, provides major milestones, detailed cost estimates, and serves significant proportion of the population.

The agreement urged territories also to satisfy all the requirements to demonstrate its willingness and capability to correct the deficiency prior to the grant award and present for approval a financially viable plan with clean benchmarks and bring it into compliance by a specific deadline.

Benavente said that, under the agreement, the CNMI would be allocated a baseline target of \$11 million per year for at least the next six years, but could receive as much as \$13 million or as little as \$9 million in any year, depending on the CNMI's performance with respect to fiscal management and specific project proposals compared with those of other insular areas.

The Bush administration battled for \$12.423 million in capital improvement funds for the CNMI for fiscal year starting in Sept. 2004.

DOI

From Page 1

and American Samoa participated.

DOI said this year's summit is a follow-up on last year's business prospects. And while the previous conference was widespread, this year would be "closely targeted" based on the experience from the last conference.

"Last year was the first step. We did a lot of analysis of what business might have as potentials. It's a basis

Management Office.

The Emergency Management Office released several high surf advisories on Sunday, warning beachgoers that surf could reach up to nine feet. The agency said hazardous surf will be present through mid-week as a result of swells generated by typhoon Dianmu.

In related news, two individuals,

NMI

From Page 1

accord both for the U.S. government and the Northern Mariana Islands particularly that baseline allocation of \$11 million. CNMI has a chance to get a maximum CIP funding of up to \$13 million every year, depending on its performance.

Under its Modification of Competitive Criteria and Threshold Requirements, the Office of Insular Affairs may make reasonable amendments, modifications, and supplements to the competitive criteria from time to time in order to improve the process for allocating and administering funds provided to the eligible territories.

The agreement also calls for better assurance that funds provided by the U.S. government will be spent in a responsible manner and to focus on priority projects included in the submitted CIP plans.

"This is actually a good deal for the CNMI since baseline funding level is not less than the pre-approved agreement," said Cohen, noting that all territories—Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico—would need to compete for the CIP funding by ensuring that it meets all provided requirements under the agreement.

Cohen explained that the accountability clause would give all territories responsibility to expend the money rightly or be penalized for not meeting all needed requirements. Non-performing territories might lose their allocation, which could possibly be added to funding alloca-

Business

Snow expects more jobs in coming months

By WILLIAM C. MANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

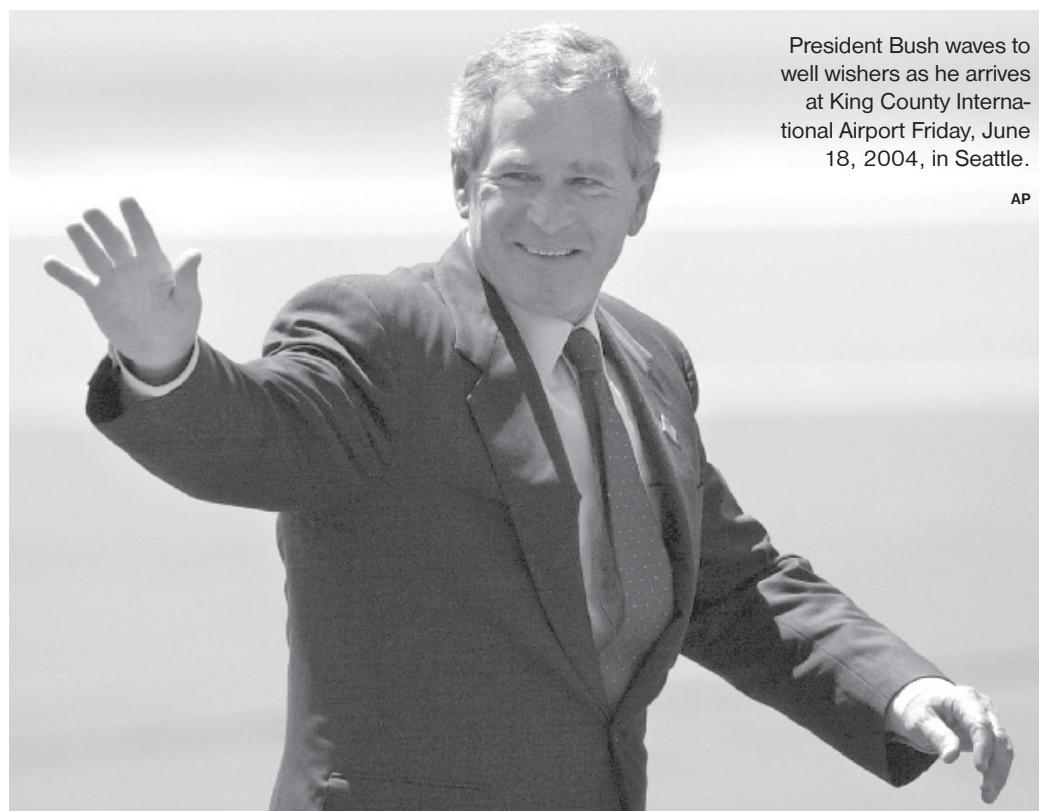
WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary John Snow said Sunday he expects continued strong economic growth and “lots and lots of good jobs” created in the coming months.

At the same time, however, he said world affairs have so dominated the public’s attention that the strong growth is not reflected in polls about President Bush’s stewardship of the economy.

“There’s been so much attention to other things, particularly the war in Iraq, that it’s deflected attention from the economy,” Snow said. “But the news on the economy ... is so good and so pervasive, so far-reaching, that I think people will change their views here.”

The nine-month period that ended April 30 showed an annual growth of 5.5 percent in the gross domestic product, which measures the value of all goods and services produced in the United States. That was the strongest three-quarter growth in 20 years, Snow said on CNN’s “Late Edition.”

“I think we’re going to see more of the same continuing



President Bush waves to well-wishers as he arrives at King County International Airport Friday, June 18, 2004, in Seattle.

AP

strong GDP growth and continuing strong job growth,” Snow said.

Quoting private estimates, which he said look reasonable, Snow said the economy should create 200,000 to 300,000 jobs a month. Again using private forecasts “that are in line with our own internal assumptions,”

he set probable GDP growth in the next few months at 4 percent to 5 percent rates.

“It looks like we’ll have growth for the coming quarters of over 4 percent, which of course, is terrific,” he said. “It’s well over the long-term average of the economy, and it’s a growth rate that assures us that we’ll see lots

of good jobs created.”

The economy has created 1.2 million jobs this year. Still, 1.2 million more Americans are unemployed than when President Bush took office 3 1/2 years ago.

“As I travel the country, I’m really impressed by, as I meet with small business and medium-sized businesses and larger businesses,

by the fact that the business community is so optimistic,” Snow said. “They’re expanding, they’re putting capital into their businesses, they’re growing and they’re hiring. And that’s really all over the country.”

Snow did not answer directly a question whether Americans should be worried about the practice of employers who eliminate jobs in the United States for cheaper labor abroad.

That practice, often called outsourcing, has become a major issue in campaigns for the White House and for Congress.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi announced last week an “American Jobs Plan” the Democrats have created as a package the party’s candidates can use in campaigning.

“The real issue there, of course, is can we generate good jobs in the United States? Will we be able to make sure that people who are looking for work can find work? And the answer to that is ‘absolutely yes,’ ” Snow said.

“As long as the spirit of enterprise and entrepreneurship is strong, and our education system is strong—and we need to work on that—we don’t need to fear. We’ll create lots and lots of good jobs.”

Survey: People pessimistic on retirement funds

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite a recovering economy, people around the world are pessimistic about their financial security in retirement.

In eight of the 12 countries surveyed in an annual gauge of financial attitudes, the number of people who expect to be worse off in retirement has increased this year. The study was commissioned by Principal Financial Group Inc., which provides pension services.

“This trend is more of a deep-seated one than we had hoped,” said Norman Sorenson, president

of Principal International, a division of Principal Financial. “There’s lingering concern around the world about three years of a weak market” and this isn’t going to dissipate overnight, he noted.

The survey, conducted earlier this year by NOP World and Harris Interactive, covered the United States, Brazil, China, Chile, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan and Mexico.

Lack of confidence in company-sponsored retirement plans and government benefits are common denominators behind

the gloomy attitudes. In general, even though people believe that it is important to put aside money, many of them doubt they’ll be able to take care of basic expenses in retirement.

In most countries, workers are skeptical that employers will deliver on the retirement benefits promised. This mistrust is highest in Japan, where only 36 percent are somewhat confident that they will receive what they’re entitled to from their company’s retirement or pension funds.

Confidence in governments also is low. Globally, many

people expressed concern about government-provided health insurance or pensions. In China and India, though, the majority of people feel that the government is doing its job to help them achieve a secure retirement.

The paradox is this: In most countries, four out of five people say they are doing well in ensuring financial security, yet many don’t know their life expectancies or how much they’ll need to retire comfortably, according to the study.

In the United States, the average 35-year-old white male is

expected to live until the age of 77, while the average 35-year-old female is expected to live to 81, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. These numbers have been creeping up for years.

In retirement planning, Americans have a substantial lead, with about 76 percent of people already having done some work. By comparison, only 33 percent of Brazilians have gotten started, the lowest level of all the countries surveyed. Still, both Americans and Brazilians said they were very concerned about their financial future.

Charitable giving rises in 2003

Helped by an improving economy, charitable giving in the United States last year rose by the highest rate in three years, according to a national survey released Monday.

The Giving USA annual report said donations by individuals, estates, foundations and corporations totaled \$240.7 billion in 2003. Researched by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, the survey showed a 2.8 percent increase over 2002, when giving amounted to \$234.1 billion.

Adjusted for inflation, donations rose only 0.5 percent in 2003, hovering at about the same rate of growth of 0.6 percent in 2002.

But the estimated contributions amounted to 2.2 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, falling just short of the nation’s all-time charitable giving high of 2.3 percent of GDP in 2000.

“Charitable giving above 2 percent of gross domestic product is one demonstration of our nation’s renewed commitment to the good works done by charities and congregations,” Henry Goldstein, chairman of the Giving USA Foundation, said in a statement.

Goldstein attributed last year’s increase to a higher household net income, a stronger stock market and improved corporate profits. (AP)

Many ports to miss security deadline

SANTOS, Brazil (AP)—Thousands of trucks rumble into South America’s largest port each day, hauling everything from auto parts to coffee bound for Europe, Asia and the United States. At least that’s what the paperwork says, although it turned out to be wrong in one telling security breach involving about 40 containers of Brazilian coffee beans last year.

Without opening the containers, it would take an X-ray or radiation detectors to reveal what’s truly inside. Those are two of several screening measures scheduled to start July 1 to prevent terrorists from shipping explosives, guns and other deadly material, although only one in 10

ports around the world has met the requirements so far.

Santos port officials say their security plan will be approved before July 1. But it will take months to implement, including constructing miles of higher fences, installing an electronic identification system for 20,000 people who pass through the port’s 60 entrances daily and putting up a closed circuit monitoring system with nearly 500 cameras.

Now, small ferries motor near enormous freighters taking on stacks of containers as security guards give paperwork cursory checks. Getting inside the port and close to docked ships isn’t hard, a factor that experts say could make it an inviting place

for terrorists planning to hijack ships or use containers to smuggle weapons of mass destruction to overseas targets.

Failure to comply with the July 1 date imposed by the International Maritime Organization, a U.N. agency, could cause trade problems if countries like the United States turn away or perform lengthy inspections on ships calling at ports that don’t meet the new security standards.

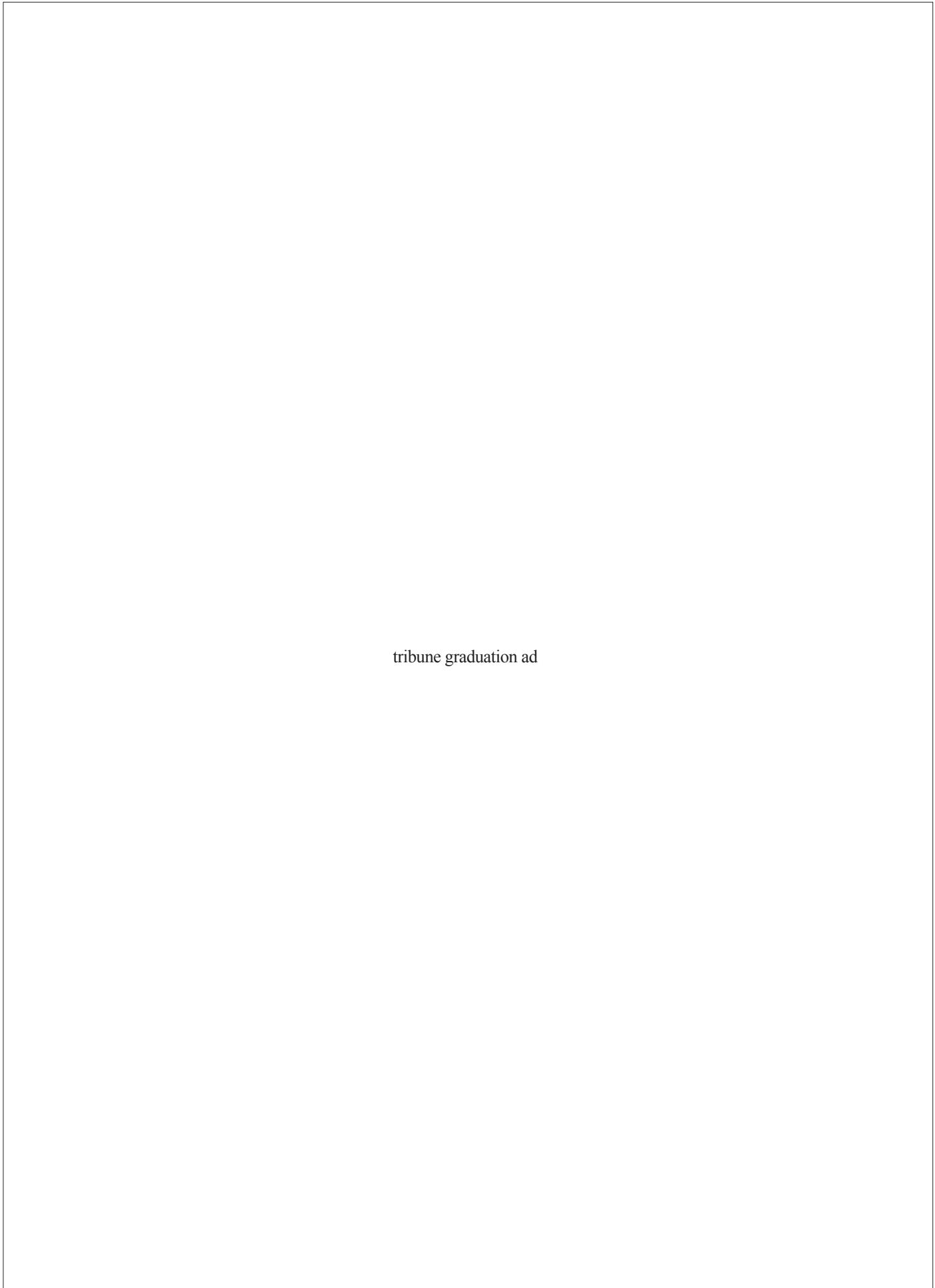
Ships heading to the United States from ports that don’t comply with the code, for example, could be searched by the U.S. Coast Guard and, in the most extreme cases, be ordered back to sea.



Asia



World



tribune graduation ad

Overdrive

T

joeten motors truck
cmyk

Life & Style

NBC seeks experts on obscure Athens events

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NBC's staggering plan to broadcast 1,210 hours of the Olympics over six networks this summer left its executives with a real problem. Just where do you find somebody who can talk skillfully and colorfully about badminton? Or handball? Or tae kwon do?

The answers came from some unlikely people.

Like Pat Croce. The former president of the Philadelphia 76ers, and basketball studio analyst for NBC, is a black belt in tae kwon do and regrets the sport was added to the Olympics after he was too old to try out. Neal remembered his interest and sought him out.

Or Bill Clement. One of the best-known hockey announcers told Neal that he had been a badminton champion growing up in Canada. Another problem solved.

Trace Worthington, a former champion free-style skier, has a side business performing aerial stunts on a trampoline. He'll be Al Trautwig's partner in telecasting the Olympic trampoline competition.

Champion triathlete Siri Lindley was being interviewed by NBC Olympics honcho David Neal for an announcing job recently when she casually mentioned coaching field

hockey at Princeton a decade ago. Neal's eyes widened.

Her cell phone rang before she even reached her hotel after the interview. Lindley didn't have just one new job. She had two—NBC's Olympics commentator for the triathlon and field hockey.

NBC will have 99 on-air announcers at the Summer Olympics in Athens, compared to 67 in Sydney in 2000. Many are familiar—Rowdy Gaines for swimming, Dwight Stones for track and field, Doug Collins for basketball.

But 51 of the announcers will be working at the Summer Olympics for the first time. And with NBC on the air so much—more hours telecast than the last five Summer Games combined—they'll have plenty of on-the-job training.

Neal, executive vice president of NBC's Olympic coverage, and Molly Solomon, managing director of NBC's cable coverage, looked at a lot of audition tapes.

"We want people who will have the ability to make a point precisely, to be able to paint pictures with language," Neal said, "and make a point about things people don't really understand."

Former athletes who still keep up-to-date with their sports had a big advantage. Neal and Solomon looked at tapes of them being interviewed to see

if they're articulate and enthusiastic.

They liked Lindley's tapes. She had quit the sport at the top because she didn't want to linger too long, and was interested in broadcasting. She sent a letter to Neal seeking an interview.

The field hockey gig helps out NBC, which otherwise would have to pay her way to Athens for just a couple of days of work.

"Multi-tasking," Neal said with a laugh. "That's what we're all about."

Lindley shrugs off the extra work, saying: "After having been a triathlete and as hard as you have to work to do that, if I'm not working hard at something, I'm not happy."

Right now, she's worried about being able to pronounce the names of all the players in a sport where the teams from Pakistan and Japan are strong. Not to mention the name of her broadcasting partner.

"I wish I could pronounce his name," she said.

He's Spero Dedes. (That's spear-oh dee-dis.)

Few of the announcers can match Karch Kiraly in being up-to-date in his sport. The three-time Olympic gold medal winner still competes in beach volleyball, and his NBC audition came last summer during a tournament in which he participated.

Kiraly and his partner lost a match, he wiped away the sweat and the sand,

and headed to the booth to comment on a tournament final featuring the team that had just beat him.

"He's blown us all away with how sharp a television mind he has," Solomon said. "He has an ability to tell stories, to give life to the different personalities on the court. He just has that innate sense. I think beach volleyball will be prominent in our network coverage. It will be rocking."

Kiraly can speak authoritatively about players' strengths and weaknesses. NBC wants to make sure its analysts won't be afraid to spell them out; their first loyalty is to viewers, not to old friends.

Although much of his work is instinctual, Kiraly is getting tips from a broadcasting coach.

Others are taking their own steps to be ready—like Croce, who took a course certifying him as a tae kwon do referee. He wants to be able to point out scoring as quickly as it happens by being familiar with the referees' terminology.

And Croce, a part-time motivational speaker, will have no trouble spreading his enthusiasm for his sport.

"I love the martial arts," he said. "I've been doing it since I was 18 years old. I'm a fourth-degree black belt. I train hard. I would love to train with the athletes. When I was covering basketball, I couldn't train with them."



Ron Kolessar, Arbitron vice president, holds the new "Portable People Meter," at the Arbitron lab in Columbia, Md. AP

The portable people meter knows all

By MARC FISHER
THE WASHINGTON POST

For the past few years, about 1,500 people in the Philadelphia area have worn small electronic devices that keep track of every bit of radio programming they might hear in the car, at the office, as they walk to lunch, when they drop by a friend's house or when they hit happy hour after work.

The gadget, the Portable People Meter, contains motion detectors to make certain that someone is really wearing the device, and extra-sensitive microphones that pick up codes hidden in each program. Each evening, the wearer takes off the device, plugs it into a docking station and transmits the data to Arbitron, the company that has dominated the radio ratings business for decades.

The Portable People Meter is the next big thing in ratings. While Media Matrix and Nielsen use software that monitors every click on the computers of people who have agreed to be part of the Internet ratings sample, and Nielsen attaches electronic meters to the TVs in the 5,000 homes that make up the national ratings sample, Arbitron's radio ratings still rely entirely on paper diaries that listeners fill out by hand.

It is hard to find anyone in radio who believes the Arbitron ratings really reflect what people listen to. The diaries are too subject to embarrassment (Do I really want to write down that I listen to all five hours of Howard Stern?), boasting (Oh yeah, I listen to the news, all day), and memory lapses (Which one of those hit music stations was on in the car?).

But the biggest problem is that radio ratings—and therefore nearly all radio programming decisions—are based on diaries that an ever-dwindling portion of the public is willing to fill out. The number of people who agreed to take \$2 a week to complete a diary dropped from 43 percent of those asked in 1995 to 34 percent in 2002. Arbitron has upped the payoff to \$10 a week, but the basic problem remains: Diaries ask listeners to reconstruct their day (or week), remembering fine details about how many minutes they spent with each radio station.

The people meter is still a few years from nationwide deployment, but eventually it will track not only radio listening, but every kind of media exposure, from TiVo to Web surfing, cable to satellite. And fears of Big Brother are no hindrance: Finding enough people to wear the meter is no problem, the ratings companies say. The token payment hardly matters; it's the thrill of being counted (with minimal effort expended) that draws people in.



Francis Bacon's 'Two Figures Lying on a Bed with Attendants' 1968, hangs in the Tate Britain in central London, Thursday June 17, 2004—the first time the piece has been shown in London for 30 years.

Francis Bacon painting on show in London

LONDON (AP)—A Francis Bacon painting that spent three decades in the vaults of an Iranian museum went on display in London for the first time Friday.

The 1968 triptych, "Two Figures Lying on a Bed with Attendants," shows two naked men lying on a bed in the central panel. On one side, they are being watched by a naked man in a chair with a flapping bird. On the other, they are being watched by a monkey and a seated man wearing a suit.

The triptych is on loan from Teh-

ran's Museum of Contemporary Art to the Tate Britain gallery in central London, where it will be shown with other Bacon works for six months.

It is one of scores of original paintings and sculptures by masters such as Pablo Picasso, Paul Gauguin and Auguste Renoir that were ordered collected for the state of Iran by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and his wife, Farah Diba, during the oil boom of the 1970s.

Bacon was born in Dublin and moved to London as a teenager.

They were locked away at the Mu-

seum of Contemporary Art after the shah was overthrown in 1979. For years, the collection remained in the museum's basement vaults.

Those restrictions now are being relaxed, and the Tate said Friday that Bacon's explicit "Two Figures" painting will be shown to the Iranian public for the first time when it returns to Tehran.

Bacon was born in Dublin and moved to London as a teenager.

The flamboyantly gay, hard-drinking Bacon was heavily influenced at first by Picasso, then by the surrealist

movement that flourished in Germany and France after the First World War.

By the time he died in Madrid in 1992 at the age of 82, Bacon was considered a major British artist of the 20th century, and his paintings have been exhibited around the world.

The Iranian museum also includes works by Kandinsky, Monet, Pissarro, Braque, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pollock and pop art icon Andy Warhol, some of which also have been loaned to museums in Europe since the late 1990s.

‘Dodgeball’ bombards ‘Terminal’ in debut

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn buried Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg under a barrage of red rubber balls. Stiller and Vaughn’s “Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story” debuted as the weekend’s top movie with \$30 million, whipping Hanks and Spielberg’s “The Terminal,” which opened at No. 2 with \$18.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“With a Spielberg and Hanks movie, we never thought we would be this far ahead. That’s rarefied air,” said Bruce Snyder, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox, which released “Dodgeball.”

The weekend’s other new wide release, Jackie Chan and Steve Coogan’s “Around the World in 80 Days,” came in at No. 9 with just \$6.8 million for the weekend and \$9.6 million since opening Wednesday.

“Dodgeball” stars Vaughn as a gym owner whose squad of geeks and losers tries to save their destitute health club in a dodgeball showdown against rival bully Stiller’s team.

The movie’s lowbrow humor—including a coach forcing his players to duck metal wrenches to hone their dodging skills—proved a stronger draw than the classy comedy “The Terminal,” about an Eastern European stuck for months in customs limbo at Kennedy airport.



Ben Stiller in 20th Century Fox’s “Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story.”

“It’s really hard to beat a movie like ‘Dodgeball.’ Everybody I talked with wanted to see it, even though they thought it looked really dumb,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

“The Terminal” had the weakest opening among Spielberg’s recent wide releases—“Catch Me If You Can,” “Minority Report,” “A.I. Artificial Intelligence” and “Saving Private Ryan.” Those films all opened in the \$30 million to \$35 million range.

“Dodgeball” drew a young male audience, while “The Terminal” played mostly to older crowds less likely to rush out on opening weekend.

DreamWorks, which distributed “The Terminal,” hopes the film has staying power.

“Smart, high-concept movies can be a difficult sell, but they often have a long theatrical life,” DreamWorks head of distribution Jim Tharp said.

Based on Jules Verne’s adventure and featuring a cameo by Arnold Schwarzenegger, “Around the World in 80 Days” was produced by Walden Media, a family-entertainment outfit that is part of Denver billionaire Philip Anschutz’s empire.

Disney acquired the movie, which became the latest in a string of duds from the studio this year, including “The Al-

mo,” “Home on the Range” and “Raising Helen.” The studio hopes to rebound with “King Arthur,” “The Village” and “Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement” in July and August.

“Little streaks like this happen to everybody, but it’s never about the short term,” said Chuck Viane, Disney head of distribution.

After a monthlong surge, Hollywood’s business dipped, with the top 12 movies taking in \$126.9 million, down 10 percent from the same weekend last year.

Some of the previous weekend’s new flicks tumbled. Vin Diesel’s “The Chronicles of Riddick” fell from second place to seventh, taking in \$8.3 mil-

lion, down a steep 66 percent. Nicole Kidman’s “The Stepford Wives” came in at No. 6 with \$9.2 million, a 57 percent drop.

“Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,” the No. 1 film the previous two weeks, was No. 3 with \$17.4 million. Its 17-day total of \$190.3 million lagged about \$10 million behind revenues for the franchise’s last installment, “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,” after 17 days.

“Shrek 2” was fourth with \$13.6 million, pushing its total to \$378.3 million and passing “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” to become No. 6 on the all-time domestic chart.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according

to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **“Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story,”** \$30 million.
2. **“The Terminal,”** \$18.7 million.
3. **“Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,”** \$17.4 million.
4. **“Shrek 2,”** \$13.6 million.
5. **“Garfield: The Movie,”** \$11 million.
6. **“The Stepford Wives,”** \$9.2 million.
7. **“The Chronicles of Riddick,”** \$8.3 million.
8. **“The Day After Tomorrow,”** \$7.55 million.
9. **“Around the World in 80 Days,”** \$6.8 million.
10. **“Troy,”** \$1.7 million.

Movie classics for the summer heat

By STEPHEN HUNTER
THE WASHINGTON POST

We greet the summer solstice thus:

□ “**Summertime**” (1955) reminds us that before he made gigantic, exquisite movies, David Lean made tiny, exquisite movies. This is one of his tiniest and most exquisite. It follows Jane Hudson (Katharine Hepburn), a New England spinster-virgin, on her vacation to Venice, where she meets the suave, romantic Renato de Rossi (Rossano Brazzi) and feels feelings and hopes she’s never felt or hoped before.

Hepburn, of course, is fabulous as a fragile woman so terrified of pain that it’s all she can do to risk even the slightest, and her suspicions about the almost-too-good-to-be-true Italian give the movie its sense of crushing tension. Brazzi is commanding, spectacular, sweeping, charismatic, but is he a lout? A terrific film.

□ “**In the Good Old Summertime**” (1949) isn’t the best Judy Garland musical by a long shot, but it has the mellow pleasures of the star at her most relaxed, in



music store who bicker all day long, then go home to lonely lives relieved only by a correspondence with a lovelorn stranger—not realizing that the secret correspondence is between themselves.

It’s a useful structure, first used non-musically in “The Shop Around the Corner” and revitalized many years later in “You’ve Got Mail.” Anyhow, the 1949 film is an artifact, a relic, an old bone, but still easy on the ears and eyes.

the bosom of her beloved MGM, that warm and caring parent that would the next year, after she collapsed on the set of “Annie Get Your Gun,” fire her. And how can anyone dislike a movie co-starring S.Z. “Cuddles” Sakall and Spring Byington that also has room for Buster Keaton? Garland and co-star Van Johnson (the boy next door, 1945-1955) play employees of Mr. Oberkugen’s

□ “**The Long, Hot Summer**” (1958) is a Hollywood simplification of the great William Faulkner—it’s based on “The Hamlet,” not to be confused with W. Shakespeare’s “Hamlet”—but, on the strength of its great cast, is still worth viewing as a way of killing an afternoon of too much heat and no game on the tube. Any movie starring the incredible young Lee Remick as a gal named Eula has got to be paid attention to!

But the big news is Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward as the stars, and the great if somewhat peculiar Orson Welles as the patriarch who may like Newman’s nasty Ben Quick more than he likes his own son, Jody (Anthony Franciosa). Let’s see, Lee Remick as Eula; Orson Welles doing a southern accent slow as molasses in Alaska; Angela Lansbury as someone called—oh, so delicious!—Minnie Littlejohn; the ‘50s Production Code forcing the filmmakers to symbolically express what Faulkner more explicitly depicted: Say, is this a movie, or what?

wallace

Girl's weight problem eats away at her self-esteem

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I am about 70 pounds overweight. When I try to diet I just give up. I feel like crying every night because of the way I look. The older I get, the more concerned I am about my weight problem, but I can't help myself.

I'm not dating anyone, and my so-called "friend" said it's because I am so ugly.

I am also kind of scared that I'll wind up dead because of my weight, but I can't stop eating. I eat because I'm sad and I eat because I'm happy. I joined an athletic program at school. All it did was help me lose a little bit of weight—not much.

What can I do to feel better about myself and become more healthy? I don't want to die.

SCARED AND SAD FAT GIRL

DEAR SCARED AND FAT: Stop beating yourself up. You have a weight problem, but you're not alone. So do millions of other people. Give yourself a pat on the back. You have already taken the first important step in overcoming your problem. You joined an athletic program, which is important to your long-term health. An added bonus is that it helps to burn calories.

Now it's time to make an appointment with your physician so he or she can recommend a sensible weight-loss program. Once that's established, go to your phone directory and check the listings for Overeaters Anonymous. OA is a self-help group that has been around for more than 40 years, with more than 8,000 chapters in 50 countries. You will be welcomed with open arms into a fellowship of compassionate women, men and young people who share a common problem. It charges no dues or fees, and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively.

Allow me to quote from a letter I printed in 1999 from a member of Overeaters Anonymous:

"Before I found OA at age 19, I had failed at every diet I tried. I wasn't able to stop shoving food down my throat. Back then, I could easily consume eight candy bars, a pint of ice cream and half a pizza in one sitting. ... My emotional state was equally tortured.

"I lost 45 pounds, Abby, but more important, I have kept it off for more than 18 years. One of my closest friends lost 102 pounds through OA and has kept it off for nearly two years. My sponsor, who guides me through the program, lost 250 pounds and has kept it off for 27 years. I'm not making it up.

"Incredibly, I don't miss the foods I used to wolf down. I eat nothing sweeter than fresh fruit, and I haven't been plagued by the relentless cravings I used to suffer. OA changed the way I relate emotionally to food. I love life now, and often can't wait to get up in the morning."

"Sad and Scared," jump-start your diet by jettisoning the so-called "friend" you mentioned in your letter. With that kind of negative influence in your life, it's no wonder you turned to food for comfort. If you have trouble locating an OA chapter near you, visit the Web site, www.overeatersanonymous.org, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to OA World Service Office, P.O. Box 44020, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4020. You'll be glad you did.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

McCartney plays for 50,000 in Russia

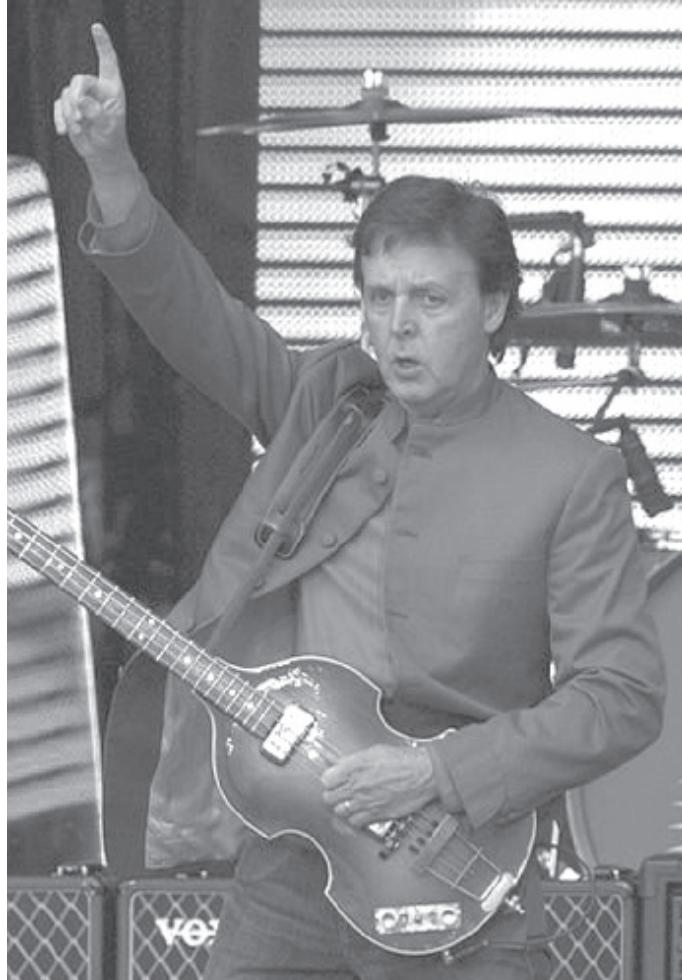
ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—Paul McCartney kicked off his concert Sunday before an estimated crowd of 50,000 in St. Petersburg's Palace Square, making only his second appearance in Russia where fans once had to listen to the outlawed Beatles in secret.

The concert got off to a late start, delayed almost an hour-and-a-half as fans waited in long lines to pass through metal detectors and super tight security cordons.

But the mood was upbeat and Beatlemania was in full swing in the square outside the Hermitage Museum. Lucky ticketholders waved Beatle memorabilia and proudly wore their Beatles' T-shirts. Russia's train system added extra train service to take fans from Moscow to St. Petersburg for the show.

"I grew up with this music," said Igor Malsky, a journalist who said he has been a Beatles fan for four decades. "When I first heard their music, I knew right away it was mine."

The event, reportedly McCartney's 3,000th gig but his first ever in St. Petersburg, came on the peak of the northern city's famous White



Paul McCartney performs at Dvortsovaya (Palace) Square in downtown St. Petersburg, Russia, Sunday, June 20, 2004. AP

Nights, when the sun barely dips beyond the horizon before starting its upward climb again. But Sunday's weather was rainy and clouds hid the sun.

Tickets reportedly cost from about \$20 to \$1,720 for special VIP-seating, where President Vladimir Putin was expected to catch at least some of the show, according to Russia's *Izvestia* newspaper.

The Beatles were officially banned by Soviet authorities, who declared their music a corrupting influence of the West. Malsky recalled a school friend being punished for listening to the Beatles.

Young people had to listen surreptitiously to "Let It Be," "Yesterday," and "Imagine." Yet Beatlemania in the Soviet Union was as strong if not stronger than anywhere else in the world—perhaps because it was forbidden fruit.

Last year, McCartney fulfilled what he said was his longtime wish and performed in Moscow's Red Square before about 20,000 fans, including Putin. He delighted the crowd with a rousing rendition of "Back in the U.S.S.R."

Rapper: Jail officials OK'd video shoot

ATLANTA (AP)—A rapper who filmed a video in a jail while he was on work release from another jail disputes Fulton County officials' claim that the shoot had not been authorized.

T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Thursday's video shoot was intended as an introduction to a concert in Atlanta Saturday.

The video showed him in a jail cell, apologizing to fans for not

appearing at the event. Then, it showed two uniformed officers escorting him out of the cell shortly before he took the stage.

Harris, 23, said he planned the video because "basically, it was a lot of speculation—he say, she say—about my incarceration. I chose to take advantage of that."

Harris was serving jail time in neighboring Cobb County on a probation violation when he received permission to leave the jail to make the video at the Fulton

jail, Cobb County Chief Deputy Sheriff Lynda Coker said.

Fulton County Sheriff Jackie Barrett said she never approved the video shoot, and sheriff's officials can't agree on who gave the rapper clearance to be in the maximum security area of their jail.

Under orders from his attorney, T.I. won't say who gave him clearance. The rapper will meet with Fulton investigators Monday.

'Turn Me On' makes Jamaican singer a star

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—When Kevin Lyttle recorded "Turn Me On" three years ago, he never expected the song would be a hit beyond his native Caribbean island of St. Vincent. But the recording has taken off in Europe, making the little-known artist an overnight star.

The song, a mix of Caribbean soca and Jamaican dancehall, earned the 26-year-old singer a four-album deal with Atlantic Records. His self-titled debut CD will be released in July.

"The song has really taken off and things are really looking up for soca," Lyttle said told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "I'm trying to take the music in a different direction by incorporating new elements so it can find a new audience."

Soca, a fast-beat spinoff of calypso, has never found a following outside of the Caribbean. Its biggest success in the United States came in the early 1980s when American singer Buster Poindexter covered the



Actress Lori Loughlin attends the WB Network 2004-2005 Prime-time Preview, held at Chelsea Pier 61, in this May 18, 2004 file photo, in New York.

tune "Hot, Hot, Hot" by the artist Arrow of Montserrat.

To date, "Turn Me On" has sold 810,000 copies worldwide, with its biggest sales coming in Europe. Last year, the song climbed to No. 2 on the British national charts.

Lyttle hopes the CD will emulate Sean Paul's "Dutty Rock" which struck a chord with American hip-hop fans. It sold more than 2 million copies and won a Grammy award for best reggae album in February.

'Full House' star Loughlin returns to TV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a nearly 10-year hiatus, erstwhile "Full House" star Lori Loughlin is back on the small screen.

In the intervening years, Loughlin, 39, stars in WB's "Summerland," playing the role of a fashion designer who must suddenly take over as mom for her sister's three children after her sibling dies in a car accident.

The show, created for Spelling Television, will be Loughlin's first regular gig since "Full House" ended its nine-year run in 1995. Loughlin played

the role of John Stamos' wife, Rebecca Donaldson, on the popular sitcom.

In the intervening years, Loughlin married fashion mogul Mossimo Giannulli and had two children, Isabella, 5, and Olivia, 4. Now, she says, she's happy to be back to work.

"When you don't work for a while, immediately you get a little black mark next to your name," she said. "You have to make difficult choices in your life and you just have to be happy with them."

Hundreds flock to Crowe casting call

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—The chance to appear for a fleeting moment in a Cameron Crowe film generated enough buzz to attract hundreds to a recent casting call in Kentucky.

As many as 1,300 people showed up at a Lexington hotel Saturday in hopes of landing roles as extras in Crowe's new movie, "Elizabeth," starring Orlando Bloom and Kirsten Dunst.

Filming begins next month, but unlike "Seabiscuit"—which was filmed in central Kentucky in 2002—no scenes will require thousands of extras.

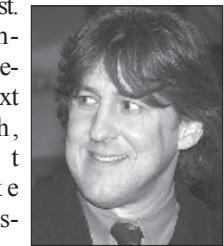
"I wouldn't take anything for the experience I had with 'Seabiscuit,'" said David Hereford, 70, who appeared as an extra.

Kentucky Film Office Director M. Todd Cassidy said Crowe's latest mov

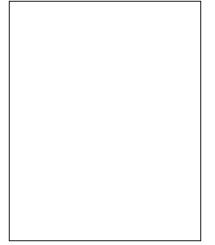
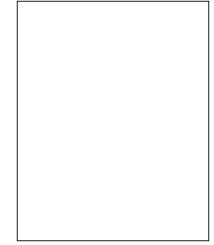
"Though it's set in Kentucky, they could have filmed it anywhere," Cassidy said. "So we're very happy they chose to come here."

Saturday's casting call and another one earlier this month in Louisville, which attracted up to 4,000 people, were successes, Cassidy added.

Crowe's box-office hits include "Almost Famous," "Jerry Maguire," and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."



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